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Překlad slovesného vidu ve vybraném díle české prózy

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Translating Verbal Aspect in a Selected Work of Czech Prose

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ANOTACE

Cílem práce je analyzovat prostředky, kterými je v anglickém jazyce vyjádřena dokonavost a nedokonavost děje. Analýza je založená na porovnání knihy *Válka s mloky* od Karla Čapka a jejích dvou překladů do anglického jazyka. První část je věnována vymezení slovesného vidu v českém jazyce a způsobům vyjádření vidových rozdílů v jazyce anglickém. V druhé části práce je zpracována samotná analýza použitých prostředků pro vyjádření aspektuálních rozdílů ve zkoumaných textech a diskuse zjištěných výsledků. Z analýzy vyplynulo, že dokonavý i nedokonavý vid byl do anglického jazyka nejčastěji přeložen minulým časem prostým, přičemž u dokonavého vidu tak byla přeložena převažující většina zkoumaných příkladů.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA: překlad, slovesný vid, dokonavý vid, nedokonavý vid, neaktuální násobená forma, Karel Čapek, *Válka s mloky*

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to analyse the means of expressing perfective and imperfective verbal aspect in the English language. The analysis is based on comparing of the book *The War with the Newts* by Karel Čapek and two different translations of this book. The first part of the thesis is dedicated to the conception of verbal aspect in the Czech language and the ways of expressing the differences in aspect in the English language. In the second part there is a concrete analysis of applied means for expressing aspectual differences in the examined texts and a discussion of the results. As emerged from the analysis, both *dokonavý* and *nedokonavý vid* were mostly translated to the English language by the past simple tense. In the case of *dokonavý vid*, the majority of examples translated by the past simple tense was considerably prevailing.

KEY WORDS: translation, verbal aspect, imperfective aspect, perfective aspect, habitual aspect, Karel Čapek, *War with the Newts*

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1 INTRODUCTION

A missing grammatical category in a target language of a translation is a considerable obstacle for a translator. Speaking of a translation from the Czech language to the English language, the category of verbal aspect/*slovesný vid* represents an example of these obstacles and therefore it is the subject of this thesis.

The category of verbal aspect/*slovesný vid* become a subject of many linguistic studies, however, linguists did still not adopt any unified interpretation of aspect/*vid*. The Mathesius's (1975) definition which says that aspect is "the expression of the manner in which the speaker conceives an action with respect to its course" (68) is the definition that could generally describe aspect/*vid*.

Nevertheless, linguists agreed on the fact that the category of aspect/*vid* is highly developed in Slavic languages (Czech language) where the designation *vid* is established. In other languages where this category is restricted (English language) the designation *aspect* is used.

This thesis occupies with an examination of concrete means to approach the differences in the category of aspect/*vid* in English in terms of a translation. The examination is realized on the basis of comparing one original Czech text and two different versions of its English translation. For the purpose of this thesis we chose the satirical novel *Válka s mloky* (1936) by the Czech writer and journalist Karel Čapek. This original text is compared with one older and one newer translation. The older one was made by Marie and Robert Weatherall in the year 1937. The newer version was made by the Czech poet and translator Ewald Osers in the year 1985.

At the beginning we are acquainted with the category of aspect/*vid* in general and with its problematics with a terminology. After defining aspect/*vid* from the point of general linguistics we concentrate in the separate chapters on the phenomenon of

aspect/*vid* in the Czech language and afterwards in the English language. On the base of these chapters the analysis of two translations mentioned above is elaborated.

In the practical part of the thesis we describe methods that were used for elaborating of the analysis of the texts. Afterwards we state our hypotheses and apply all the theoretical findings about aspect/*vid* at the original and the translated texts. In the analysis we will try to prove or disprove the hypotheses and illustrate it with the concrete examples from the books. In the end of this thesis we summarize the conclusions that were developed from the analysis of the examined translations.

2 THE THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

A language is reckoned as a system and as Jiří Levý (1963) says “if one category of semantic possibilities is restricted in this system, it is compensated in a different category of the system which is more developed”¹ (66). This is the problem of a general theory of verbal aspect. The category of verbal aspect is not equally developed in all languages and that reflects also in differences and disunity of the theory of aspect. Moreover, this situation was even more complicated when linguists started to distinguish a new phenomenon called *Aktionsart*, which initially designated the same linguistic phenomenon as the term *aspect*. *Aktionsart* can be also known as *lexical aspect* now. According to Bernd Kortmann (1991), the term *aspect* appeared for the first time around the year 1830 in a French translation of a Russian grammar book. This term “was used in a twofold sense” and captured both *aspect*, as it is known nowadays, and *Aktionsart*. The term *Aktionsart* was introduced in 1855 by a British linguist, however, as we already said, it designated the same phenomenon already known as *aspect* (11). That illustrates the complexity of the situation of aspect which persists up to now.

Janotová (2016) explains the difference between aspect and *Aktionsart* as follows. Aspect expresses “internal time of an action, how the action was going on”². *Aktionsart* also expresses the internal progress of an action. However, the difference is in “instruments that are used to express this internal progress”³. Aspect conveys it by means of grammar, whereas *Aktionsart* uses semantic, inherent qualities of a verb or a verb phrase” (8). It can be illustrated by the following comparison of the Czech

¹ „...a právě vzhledem k této kompenzaci musíme oba jazyky považovat za systémy, v nichž oslabení jedné kategorie významových možností je obvykle vyvažováno jinou kategorií bohatě rozvinutou.“ (Levý 1963, 66)

² „...interního času slovesného děje, ..., jak daný děj probíhal.“ (Janotová 2016, 8)

³ „...jakými prostředky vnitřní průběh děje vyjadřujeme“ (Janotová 2016, 8)

word *vykládat* and the English phrasal verb *hold forth*. Czech *vykládat* expresses imperfective aspect by its morphological structure, by grammar, whereas English *hold forth* is defined by the Cambridge dictionary as “to talk about a particular subject for a long time” and it means that here imperfective aspect is expressed by a semantic level of the verb.

In the general linguistics the main aspectual opposition of an *imperfective* and *perfective* conception of an action is distinguished. In a simplified way, imperfective describes actions in progress and perfective describes bounded and unitary actions. However, each language has its own forms to express whether an action is (or will be) finished or is still in progress. The following chapters explain how this function of a language is approached in the Czech language and in the English language.

2.1 Slovesný vid in the Czech language

The Czech language pertains to Slavic languages where the category of aspect is highly developed. That is why many linguists were interested in researching in this field. The conception of verbal aspect in Slavic languages differs from the conceptions in other languages and therefore we will refer to it by the designation *slovesný vid*. *Vid* is, together with a category of person, number, tense, mood, voice and class, one of the basic categories that can be determined within a Czech verb. Eugen Seidel (1960) adds that “the categories of tense or mood and even to infinitive forms and participles are subordinated to the category of *vid*”⁴ (251).

At the beginning of the exploration of Czech *vid*, authors were not certain whether it is exclusively a grammatical category or not. However, Janotová (2016) writes that it would be imprecise to consider the category of *vid* strictly grammatical.

⁴ „Kategorie jako čas, způsob atd., avšak také infinitiv, participium apod. jsou kategorii vidu podřízeny.“ (Seidel 1960, 251)

The category of *vid* pertains to a grammatical level of language because we can use two forms of a verb to describe only one lexical meaning (similarly to the relation between nouns *strom* – *stormy*). At the same time, the category of *vid* interferes to the lexical level of language, because “the change of *vid* often brings also a slight change in a lexical level of a verb, therefore also in its semantics”⁵ (9). For example the verb “*napsat*” can be paraphrased as “*dokončit psaní*” (Kopečný 1962, 6). Janotová agrees with František Kopečný (1962) who explains that “*vid* belongs to those features of a verb that have onomatological function”⁶. It means that it belongs to “an aspectual modification of a verb (similarly to e.g. the grammatical number belongs to the aspectual modification of nouns”⁷). It shows that the category of *vid* modifies the meaning of a verb. Therefore Kopečný, equally as Janotová, considers *vid* as a grammatical-lexical category (6).

It can be said that Czech *vid* is found in between what we defined in the preceeding chapter as aspect and Aktionsart. It is found on the boundary of a grammatical and a lexical level of language (we use two verbs for describing one lexical meaning, but we can notice a slight shift in this meaning as well). It should be even more noticeable in a translation where “lexis and grammar partly overlap” (Newmark 1991, 125). Moreover, one of the following chapters is dedicated to the third form of *vid*, where the lexical level is the most noticeable. Kopečný (1962) gives the following example of the third form of *vid*: the pair “*psát* – *psávat*” where the verb “*psávat*” (in the third form of *vid*) can be paraphrased as “*mít ve zvyku psát*”. And besides that the third form of *vid* can be often expressed in the foreign language,

⁵ „...změna vidu často také přináší změnu v lexikální složce slovesa – v jeho sémantice.“ (Janotová 2016, 9)

⁶ „...slovesný vid patří k těm znakům slovesa, které mají onomatologickou funkci...“ (Kopečný 1962, 6)

⁷ „...patří k tzv. aspektovým modifikacím slovesa (tak jako např. plurál k aspektovým modifikacím podstatného jména).“ (Kopečný 1962, 6)

in English by the phrase *used to* (“*to be used to write*”) (6). This is another proof that the category of *vid* is not only a grammatical category, but also a lexical category.

With respect to *vid* Czech verbs can occur in two main forms. These two forms are grammatically opposite. On the basis of this opposition a verb can have *dokonavý vid* or *nedokonavý vid*. The first one of this pair, *dokonavý vid*, expresses, according to Kopečný (1962), actions that are completed, limited in time. In terms of general linguistics it expresses perfective meaning. The second one, *nedokonavý vid*, describes “actions that are in progress and do not bring any references about its end or finishing”⁸ (9). In terms of general linguistics it expresses imperfective meaning.

Alexandr Isačenko (1960) observes that the majority of authors state that “there are really only two main forms of aspect in Slavic languages”⁹ – *dokonavý vid* and *nedokonavý vid*, which we have already mentioned above (10). Isačenko hereby questiones for example the theory of Kopečný (1962) who distinguishes, apart from *dokonavý* and *nedokonavý vid*, the third aspectual form of a Czech verb and calls it “*neaktuální násobená forma*” (5). More about these three types of aspect is described in the following chapters.

This was the basic theory of the category of *vid*. Nevertheless, linguists who studied the issues of aspect developed other theories and definitions that are distinct from this basic conception. In the following paragraph we summarize the most significant ones.

Isačenko (1960) writes that linguists for many years followed the established opinion of Franz Miklosich that the meaning of *vid* proceeds from the opposition of a continuous action and a finished action. The first one who questioned this belief was

⁸ „...děj jakožto probíhající,..., aniž však přitom myslíme na, zda byl nebo bude dokončen“ (Kopečný 1962, 9)

⁹ „Dnes se můžeme opřít již bezpečně nejen o zjištění, že vidy ve slovanských jazycích jsou pouze dva, ale můžeme také vycházet z jasně definované vidové sémantiky.“ (Isačenko 1960, 10)

the philologist Emil Černý (10). Isačenko (1960) summarizes the Černý's conception that "*dokonavý vid* presents the action clamped together in a condensed form and the speaker covers in one sight what follows or what has passed"¹⁰ (10). Since then many linguists tried to explain the meaning of *slovesný vid*. For example the interpretation of *vid* by Dostál (1954) corresponds with this conception. He agrees that aspect depends on the attitude of a speaker to the external action. When the speaker can consider the action as compact, then he uses a verb with *dokonavý vid*. On the contrary, when the speaker can see the action only from the middle and does not have the overall view at that action, he uses a verb in *nedokonavý vid* (15). That was one of the approaches to *slovesný vid* in the Czech language.

Another approach that is distinct from the theories of Kopečný and Dostál is represented by the theory of Daneš. The Daneš's (1985) theory is looking at *vid* from the point of a "resultativity"¹¹. It means that *dokonavý vid* expresses "an action approached as closed, finished, completed, and thus including a result in itself"¹² (16).

In this thesis *slovesný vid* is considered an important category of a Czech verb represented by the opposition of perfective and imperfective meaning. Perfective meaning is expressed by *dokonavý vid* and imperfective meaning is expressed by *nedokonavý vid*. We have the three main conceptions of *slovesný vid*. One that regards perfectivity as an expression of a completion of an action (Kopečný), one that regards perfectivity as a resultativity (Daneš), and the last one that regards perfectivity as an overall view at the situation (Dostál). Although these conceptions are very similar, we apply the most common one by Kopečný in this thesis.

¹⁰ „představuje děj hromadně, semknutě, v shrnutí, sumárně, v kondenzované formě“, přičemž mluvčí „jako by jediným pohledem zahrnoval celou cestu, která před ním leží anebo kterou má za sebou“ (Isačenko 1960, 10)

¹¹ „rezultativnost“ (Daneš 1985, 16)

¹² „...děj pojatý jako uzavřený, dokonaný, završený, tedy zahrnující v sobě výsledek.“ (Daneš 1985, 16)

2.1.1 Nedokonavý vid

Nedokonavý vid is one of the two members of the Czech aspectual opposition. As it was previously said, this *vid* expresses a continuous action which does not express whether an action is finished, will be finished or will not be finished. It means that it does not provide any point of view relating to the completion of an action. In the terms of general linguistics it expresses imperfective meaning. Kopečný (1962) and other linguists (e.g. Dušková, Isačenko) state that *nedokonavý vid* is “an unmarked member of the aspectual opposition”¹³ and therefore it is a neutral member. It means that *nedokonavý vid* can be often used instead of *dokonavý vid* without changing any meaning of the particular situation (8). In contrast to *dokonavý vid* where the substitution is not possible because it would produce changes in meaning. Luboš Veselý (2010) in his work mentions also that “the form of *dokonavý vid* always expresses perfective meaning, whereas *nedokonavý vid* can be used to express both imperfective and perfective meaning”¹⁴ (17). He gives the following examples:

- “*Když jsem včera platil, pohádal jsem se s vrchním.*” The verb in *nedokonavý vid* “*platil*” has imperfective meaning.
- “*Vy už jste mi to platil? ptá se vrchní.*” Here the verb “*platil*” expresses perfective meaning (Veselý 2010, 17).

In the second sentence *nedokonavý vid* is used instead of the verb “*zaplatil*” in *dokonavý vid*. However, this exchange does not influence the perfective meaning of the whole sentence. Therefore, we would be rather interested in distinguishing whether

¹³ „Ty jsou bezpříznakovým členem protikladné dvojice.“ (Kopečný 1962, 9)

¹⁴ „Podle tohoto pojetí tedy perfektivem vždy vyjadřujeme dokonavost (Pane vrchní, zaplatím.) a imperfektivum můžeme použít jednak k vyjádření nedokonavosti (Když jsem včera platil, pohádal jsem se s vrchním.), jednak k vyjádření dokonavosti („Vy už jste mi to platil?“ ptá se vrchní odcházejícího hosta.).“ (Veselý 2010, 17)

nedokonavý vid is explicitly expressed in the English translation by a particular method or not. This matter is discussed in the chapter of imperfective aspect in English.

Another characteristic of verbs in *nedokonavý vid* is that they can be expressed in all the three grammatical tenses, unlike the verbs in *dokonavý vid*. The comparison is provided in the following chapter.

The fact that *nedokonavý vid* can express all tenses is useful for determining of *slovesný vid*. Kopečný (1962) claims that verbs in *nedokonavý vid* “can stand after stage verbs”¹⁵ (e.g. *začít, zůstat, přestat*) or after a periphrastic future form (*budu* + infinitive). He also argues that “this formal characteristic is the most reliable way to determine *vid*”¹⁶ of a verb (11). This method of recognizing *vid* will be applied to the analysis of the Czech original of the book *War with the Newts*.

According to Kopečný (1962) both forms of Czech *vid* in the present form has a wide range of possibilities of what can be expressed by it. *Nedokonavý vid* in the present form can indicate not only the present tense, but also the past and the future references (27). Janotová (2016) gives the following examples:

- “*Kdo jinému jámu kopá, sám do ní padá.*” an example of the present with a general validity
- “*Běžím do obchodu.*” an example of the present with a current reference.
- “*A tak tam jedu a zase ho tam vidím.*” an example of the past in the present narrative tense where the past events are narrated in the present forms.
- “*Za měsíc jedeme na dovolenou.*” an example of the future meaning expressed by the present form of the verb (13).

¹⁵ „...která mohou stát po slovesech fázových...” (Kopečný 1962, 11)

¹⁶ „Tento nesémantický, formální znak je nejspolehlivějším kritériem vidu“ (Kopečný 1962, 11)

It follows that the majority of all types of actions can be expressed by *nedokonavý vid* and it confirms that it is exactly the unmarked member of the aspectual opposition.

2.1.2 Dokonavý vid

Dokonavý vid is the second member of the Czech aspectual opposition. As it was already defined in one of the preceding chapters, *dokonavý vid* expresses a time-limited action, an action in its result, in its totality, as a completed fact. Generally it expresses perfective meaning. According to Kopečný (1962) this *vid* is “a marked member of the aspectual opposition”¹⁷, it contains a special indication that makes it impossible to substitute *dokonavý vid* with *nedokonavý*. This special indication is reflected in an additional semantic level (semantic modification) that can be formally expressed for example by prefixes (9). Kopečný (1962) claims that using prefixes is the most common way to form *dokonavý vid* (e.g. “*klamal – zklamal*”) (90).

However, Kopečný (1962) adds that we must be aware of the possibility that adding prefixes to form a verb in *dokonavý vid* can often change the lexical meaning of the verb and thus create a new verb (e.g. *vařit – převařit*) (90). According to Janotová (2016), the prefixes that do not change the lexical meaning of the original verb are called “*prostě vidové předpony*”. Here are examples of prefixes that are considered as “*prostě vidové*” by the majority of linguists “*o-, u-, vy-, na-, za-, z-, ze-, po-*”. For example, “by adding of prefix *u-* to the verb *vařit* the verb *uvařit* is created and it has the same lexical meaning as *vařit*”¹⁸ (11). These two verbs (*vařit – uvařit*) form an aspectual pair (*vidová dvojice*). One member of the aspectual pair is a verb in *nedokonavý vid* and the second one is a verb in *dokonavý vid* (e.g. *dělat – udělat, psát*

¹⁷ „...dokonavé tvary jsou co do vidu příznakové“ (Kopečný 1962, 9)

¹⁸ „...přidáním předpony -u ke slovesu *vařit* vznikne sloveso *uvařit*, jehož lexikální význam se s původním tvarem shoduje.“ (Janotová 2016, 11)

– *napsat, platit – zaplatit*). According to Janotová (2016), the members of one aspectual pair have the same lexical meaning and they differ only in *vid* (10). Considering the fact that the category of *vid* in the English language practically does not exist, the verbs of one aspectual pair should be translated by the same English verb without any other necessary modifications.

Another possibility of forming verbs in *dokonavý vid* is by the suffix *-nout* (e.g. “*zapomínat – zapomenout*”), although it is less frequent (5).

As it was mentioned in the previous chapter, *dokonavý vid* in contrast to *nedokonavý vid* cannot be expressed in all three grammatical tenses. This is a specific sign that can be seen when *dokonavý vid* is used in the present tense. Janotová (2016) points out that the meaning of *dokonavý vid* in the present tense refers to the future (e.g. “*pojedu, postavím, uvařím*”). It means that it cannot be used to describe the current present (10). Compare the following verbs. The verb *přicházet* (*nedokonavý vid*) can appear in all three grammatical tenses:

Past form: *Přicházel domů ráno.*

Present form: *Přichází domů ráno.*

Future form: *Bude přicházet domů ráno.*

However, the verb *přijít* (*dokonavý vid*) is restricted and its present form expresses future meaning:

Past form: *Přišel domů ráno.*

Present form with future meaning: *Přijde domů ráno.*

This is valid only for the active voice though. Janotová (2016) gives the following example “*most je postaven*” where the passive voice is used for expressing the present meaning (10).

The wide range of Czech affixes significantly differentiates the Czech language from those languages that do not have the category of aspect or have this category less developed. “Adding prefixes or suffixes in the Czech language can have the same influence as adding extra words in other languages as for example English”¹⁹ (Janotová 2016, 12). Compare the following examples “*Jan se rozběhl.*” and “*John started to run.*” (Janotová 2016, 12). In English, prefixes that can change the imperfective meaning to the perfective one can be found too, however, the amount of them is not so large (see chapter 2.2.2).

It can be summarized as Janotová (2016) states that “*dokonavý vid* in the present tense can express two distinct situations. The first is a future situation (e.g. *Půjdu do kina.*) and the second one is a situation with an atemporal character (e.g. *Jak si usteleš, tak si lehneš.*)”²⁰. Both situations have a general validity, however, the atemporal character is not used so often in this way (13).

2.1.3 The third form of Czech vid

Even though Isačenko, as said before, confirms that in the Czech language there are only two forms of *slovesný vid*, Kopečný (1962) claims that there is one extra form called “*neaktuální násobená*” (verbs “*neaktuálně násobená*”). He illustrates it with examples of differences between verbs “*dělat – dělávat, psát – psávat, chválit – chválívat*”. This third form is derived from “imperfective aspect by means of the suffix –*va*”²¹ (5). This suffix can be repeated in the word several times for emphasizing (e.g. “*dělávávat*”). This aspect is characterised by two features “*neaktuálnost*” and

¹⁹ „Přidáním předpony ke slovesu docílíme toho, čeho se v jiných jazycích, jako např. angličtině, docílí přidáním slov navíc.“ (Janotová 2016, 12)

²⁰ „Dokonavý tvar slovesa v přítomnosti může vyjádřit dvě různé situace. První z nich je budoucnost, zatímco v druhém příkladu má sloveso v prezntním tvaru mimočasový charakter...“ (Janotová 2016, 13)

²¹ „Příponou -*va*- se konečně vytváří k základnímu, nedokonavému vidu ještě třetí vidová forma, neaktuální násobená...“ (Kopečný 1962, 5)

“*násobenost*” (Kopečný 1962, 5). Kopečný (1962) explains *neaktuálnost* as a feature which describes an action that is not in progress at the moment of speech. As the opposite he mentions the present progressive tense in English which is a special form to express actions that are in progress at the moment of speech (15-16). The second feature *násobenost* or iterative aspect is explained by Kopečný (1962) simply as “a repetition”²² of an action (17). Kopečný (1962) advocates the existence of the third *vid* by the combination of the features *neaktuálnost* and *násobenost* mentioned above (19). Even though, the majority of linguists classify verbs in this third form as a subcategory of *nedokonavý vid*. One of them is for example Janotová (2016) who adds that verbs *neaktuálně násobená* can occur only in one of the forms of *vid* (*nedokonavý*) and it is impossible to derive the other one from it. That kind of verbs is generally known as “*jednovidová*” (monoaspectual) verbs and they “express mainly states or simple actions”²³ (12). Kopečný (1962) claims that for example verbs that “express abilities are usually monoaspectual”²⁴ and he adds the example that the expression in *nedokonavý vid* “*on to umí*” has the same meaning as the expression in *dokonavý vid* “*on to dovede*” (7). Then also, as Veselý (2010) mentions, verbs exist that share only one verb for both aspects and those are called “*obouvidová*” (biaspectual). They have the same form for *dokonavý* and *nedokonavý vid* (e.g. “*obětovat, věnovat, informovat, jmenovat*”) (20). These two anomalies, however, capture only a small percentage of all verbs.

Nevertheless, for the purpose of this thesis it is important to agree with Kopečný and distinguish the third “*neaktuální násobená*” form of Czech *vid*. This form has its parallel in English called habitual aspect which expresses the same meaning as

²² „opakovanost“ (Kopečný 1962, 17)

²³ „...vyjadřují stavy či jednoduché děje“ (Janotová 2016, 12)

²⁴ „slovesa na označení schopnosti jsou obvykle nepárová“ (Kopečný 1962, 7)

the third form of Czech *vid*. It is an important feature of the English language which should be taken in consideration in the process of translation.

2.2 Verbal aspect in the English language

In contrast with the Czech language, where “each verb is formally assigned to a particular aspectual group” (Mathesius 1975, 70), is either *dokonavé* or *nedokonavé* on the basis of its morphological structure, the category of aspect is not equally developed in the English language. Dušková (2003) states that “the category of aspect, as it is known in Czech, does not exist in English”²⁵ (242). Even though the Czech category of *vid* does not correspond with the English aspectual category, there are certain means to express aspectual differences in the English language. This chapter tries to describe the conception of verbal aspect in English.

Some linguists explain the reduction of the aspectual category in English by the extension of other grammatical categories. Seidel (1960) for example states that Slavic languages are more restricted in moods than other Indo-European languages and that it is connected with a broadly developed category of verbal aspect in Slavic languages (252). Dušková (2003) explains it as the difference between temporal systems. “At the basic level the English temporal division of actions corresponds with the Czech system (past, present, future) but the further division does not correspond. In Czech each temporal level has its own tense with aspectual modifications. On the other hand in English each temporal level has one tense that can occur in two groups of forms: 1) simple x progressive 2) basic (present, preterit, future) x perfect

²⁵ „Němčě kategorie vidu v té formě, v jaké ji známe z češtiny, v angličtině neexistuje.“ (Dušková 2003, 242)

(present perfect, plusquamperfect, future perfect)”²⁶ (217). It can be said that what Czech expresses by means of aspect, English can frequently express by means of tense.

The English language can substitute the missing grammatical category by other more specific strategies. One of these strategies is distinguishing between a perfective and an imperfective character of an action. A defender of this division is for example the British linguist Bernard Comrie. This thesis regards verbal aspect in English from this point of view. More detailed information about this division is provided in chapters 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

2.2.1 Imperfective aspect

Imperfective aspect is “an aspectual category that is common for the majority of languages”²⁷, however, it fundamentally “differs in its conception”²⁸ throughout the languages (Janotová 2016, 20).

Some languages, as for example Czech, regard imperfective aspect as one global category that, as Comrie (1976) states, is described as the view “at the situation from inside, and as such is crucially concerned with the internal temporal structure of the situation” (4). This conception (viewing an action from within without an overall view) corresponds with the previously mentioned definition of *nedokonavý vid* by Dostál in chapter 2.1.

In other languages, as for example English, various subcategories of imperfective aspect can be distinguished. This is necessary because English can

²⁶ „Anglický temporální systém se shoduje s českým v základním dělení dějů na přítomné, minulé a budoucí, avšak uvnitř jednotlivých časových sfér jsou značné rozdíly. Zatímco čeština má pro každou časovou sféru v podstatě jeden čas, který ovšem disponuje modifikacemi vidovými, jsou všechny anglické časy zastoupeny dvěma soubory tvarů, tvary prostými a průběhovými, a navíc stojí základní časy (prézens, präterium a futurum) v protikladu k časům perfektním (perfektum, plusquamperfektum, předbudoucí čas).“ (Dušková 2003, 217)

²⁷ „...aspektuální kategorie, která je společná ve většině světových jazyků.“ (Janotová 2016, 20)

²⁸ „Často se však liší jeho pojetí.“ (Janotová 2016, 20)

express only some types of imperfective aspect. Comrie (1976) divides imperfectivity in two subcategories: “habitual” and “continuous” aspect. The second one is further divided to “progressive” and “nonprogressive” aspect (25). Quirk at al. (1985) for example speak only about the progressive aspect which is “sometimes called the durative or continuous aspect” though (197). Nevertheless, we are inclined to the Comrie’s conception here.

As mentioned above, not all imperfective subcategories are expressed in English. According to both Comrie and Dušková, those subcategories that are formally expressed (marked) are the progressive one and the habitual one.

Quirk at al. (1985) also write that differences between “*Joan sang well*” and “*Joan was singing well*” are differences between aspects. They explain that “the past simple makes us see the event as a whole, while the progressive makes us see it as an activity in progress” (197). Dušková (2003) writes that the progressive aspect expresses “an action in its course”²⁹ (242). Knittlová (2003) adds that it can be subjective interpretation when a speaker concentrates on a course of an action. A speaker chooses aspect “on the grounds of context and this choice is not always clear”³⁰ (92). Nevertheless, Dušková (2003) states that “the progressive form corresponds with *nedokonavý vid* in Czech, but in the opposite direction the correspondence is only partial”³¹. The sentence “*Jan kouří*” can be translated in two ways according to two different meanings. If the situation is currently going on, it will be translated as “*John is smoking*”. If the sentence describes a general situation, it will be translated as “*John smokes*” (242).

²⁹ „děj v jeho průběhu“ (Dušková 2003, 242)

³⁰ „...pro vid se také rozhodujeme tentativně na základě kontextu a ne vždy zcela jednoznačně“ (Knittlová 2003, 92)

³¹ „...průběhový tvar odpovídá nedokonavému vidu, avšak korespondence opačným směrem se uplatňuje jen zčásti.“ (Dušková 2003, 242)

One of the problems is that not all verbs can appear in the progressive form without changing their meaning. Quirk et al. (1985) point out that “verbs with stative sense do not occur in the progressive” (53). Comrie (1976) adds that generally verbs of “inert perception like see, hear” are stative and do not appear in the progressive form. He also brings more details and explains that “there are many verbs that are treated sometimes as stative, sometimes as nonstative”, however, it changes the meaning of the sentence (36). It is illustrated by the following examples: “*Fred is silly*” and “*Fred is being silly*” (Comrie 1976, 36). Therefore, it is important to distinguish between stative/nonstative verbs and stative/nonstative meaning.

Nevertheless, progressiveness can be generally defined “as the combination of progressive meaning and nonstative meaning” (Comrie 1976, 35). Progressive meaning is expressed obligatorily by the progressive form and this form, as we already know, excludes verbs with stative meaning. The verbs with stative meaning need to be expressed by nonprogressive forms as it is shown in the following example. “*John knew/*was knowing that he was speaking too quickly*” (Comrie 1976, 34). The verb “*knew*” has a stative meaning and so it is not used in the progressive form. However, it still expresses imperfective meaning, but without habituality, and that is why Comrie (1976) distinguishes, alongside habitual and progressive, also “the nonprogressive aspect” (25).

Another aspect that can be marked in English is the habitual aspect. According to Comrie (1976), it is restricted only for the past tense though (e.g. “*John used to work here*”) (25). As it is seen in the example, the special form for the habitual aspect is the construction with *used to*. Comrie (1976) characterises habituality as a feature that “describes a situation which is characteristic of an extended period of time, so extended in fact that the situation referred to is viewed not as an incidental property of

the moment but, precisely, as a characteristic feature of a whole period” (28). Moreover, the construction with *used to* implies that the situation refers to the past and “no longer holds”, unless otherwise stated (Comrie 1976, 29). The habitual aspect can be also combined with the progressive one (e.g. “*John used to be writing poems*”). (Comrie 1976, 33).

Dušková (2003) mentions one other means to express imperfectivity in the English language. It is the construction with *keep* + an adjective or a participle. It expresses “continuous course of an action or staying in an unchanged state”³² (e.g. “she kept (on) giggling *pořád se hihňala*, my shoe laces kept (on) coming undone *pořád se mi rozvazovaly tkaničky u bot*, the children kept quiet *děti byly potichu*”) (244).

We acknowledged that progressive and habitual forms of imperfective aspect are the only marked forms. The English progressive form corresponds with *nedokonavý vid* in Czech, but in the opposite direction the correspondence applies only in the case when *nedokonavý vid* expresses an ongoing action that is present at the moment of speech. Moreover, from the mentioned theory it results that progressive meaning needs to be expressed in English solely by the progressive form, which means that it is expressed syntactically. Furthermore, as mentioned in one of the previous chapters, for the purpose of this thesis it is important to define the habitual aspect because it expresses the same meaning as the Czech “*neaktuální násobená*” form. We will observe whether, equally to the progressive meaning, the habitual meaning of a situation needs an explicit expression of the habitual form in English, or not.

³² „...setrvání v nějakém stavu nebo nepřetržitý průběh děje...” (Dušková 2003, 244)

2.2.2 Perfective aspect

Perfective aspect, as Comrie (1976) states, expresses actions viewed “from outside, without necessarily distinguishing any of the internal structure of the situation”. This action could have some progress, but the perfective verbal form does not give any evidences about this course (4). This definition can be again compared with definition of Czech *dokonavý vid* by Dostál (1954) who also considers the perfectivity as an overall view at the situation (15).

Comrie (1976) points out that it is important not to confuse English terms *perfect* and *perfective*. As we already know word *perfective* relates to the aspectual character of an action, whereas word *perfect* relates to the tense which is characteristic for its relevance to the present (63). It means that perfect verb forms (present perfect, past perfect, future perfect) do not strictly imply the perfective aspect.

According to Comrie (1976), the situation when a present perfect form expresses a perfective aspectual character is only when it expresses a certain result. Comrie names these types of perfect forms “perfect of result” (56). This may be the reason why some authors claim that perfect forms belong to the aspectual category. However, Dušková (2003), as well as Comrie, refuses this classification and says that perfective forms pertain to the temporal category. She argues that not all verbs can express a resultative meaning “*dokončenost*” and that this meaning can be expressed by verbs in preterit and not only by perfect forms. She illustrates it with examples “*Where have I put my glasses?*” and “*Where did I put my glasses?*” (241). These two sentences express the same action only with a different time reference. The first sentence occurred only a moment ago, but the second sentence occurred for example yesterday (a longer time ago). It shows that for expressing of perfective meaning, using of the past simple tense is sufficient.

Other means that are used for expressing perfective meaning of a situation are discussed in the following paragraphs. Similarly as progressive and habitual forms are used to express the imperfective meaning, some kinds of adverbial particles, prefixes or syntactic constructions are means for expressing the perfective meaning.

Firstly, according to Dušková (2003), adverbial particles like “down”, “out”, “off”, “through” and “up” can be used to emphasize the perfective meaning because they refer to “the final stage of an action”³³ (e.g. “write down *zapsat (si)*, blow out *sfouknout* (he blew out the candle *sfouknul svíčku*), try out *vyzkoušet*, work out (a problem) *vyřešit (problém)*, shake off *setřást*, cool off *vychladnout*, think through *promyslet*, soak through *promočit*, use up *spotřebovat*, eat up *sníst*, drink up *vypít*, brush up *vykartáčovat*”) (243).

Secondly, some prefixes can help with expressing perfectivity (e.g. “enslave *zotročit*, enrage *rozzuřit*, enforce *vnutit/vynutit*, outgrow (one’s brothers) *přerůst (bratry)*, outlive (one’s wife) *přežít (manželku)*, outrun *předběhnout*, outshine *zastínit*, overeat *přejíst se*, oversleep *zaspat*”) (Dušková 2003, 243).

Furthermore, some kinds of complement (e.g. “he drank himself silly *zpil se do němoty*, he drank himself to death *upil se k smrti*, they talked her silly *umluvili ji*, the door banged shut *dveře se zabouchly*, the river has run dry *řeka vyschla*, the catch sprang open *západka odskočila (se otevřela)*”) can change the meaning to perfective too (Dušková 2003, 243).

Other methods, according to Dušková (2003) for expressing aspectual differences in English are “verbo-nominal constructions with verbs have, give and others”³⁴ (243). When they are used in a simple form and are combined with

³³ „...konečnou fází děje.“ (Dušková 2003, 243)

³⁴ „...verbonominální vazby se slovesy *have, give* aj.“ (Dušková 2003, 243)

“the emphasis on one act of an action”³⁵ (243), they have perfective meaning (e.g. “he gave the door a push *strčil do dveří*, I had a drink of water *napil jsem se vody*, she took a deep breath *zhluboka se nadýchl*”) (Dušková 2003, 243). However, when these constructions are used in a progressive form they express an unfinished action and would correspond with Czech *nedokonavý vid* (e.g. “he was working out a problem *řešil problém*, she was shaking off the snow *strásala ze sebe sněh*, you are overeating again *už se zase přejídáš*, the rivers are running dry *řeky vysychají*, he was taking a bath *koupal se*”) (Dušková 2003, 243).

We learnt that perfective aspect in the English language does not express the internal structure of an action, but it is a view in total. From the argument above, it follows that the past simple tense can express perfective meaning. One kind of perfect forms named “perfect of result” expresses also perfective meaning. However, despite the similar designation a distinction has to be made between perfective and perfect forms. We regard perfective forms as a category of aspect, whereas perfect forms as a category of tense. We already know that aspectual categories in Czech and English are not corresponding. English does not have any general perfective form to express perfective meaning of an action. Despite this fact, there are some concrete means for expressing perfective meaning in English. These means are some adverbial particles, prefixes, and syntactic constructions.

³⁵ „...vytčení jednoho aktu příslušného děje.“ (Dušková 2003, 243)

3 THE ANALYSIS

This chapter tries to compare the theoretical knowledge gained in the previous chapters with a practical analysis of concrete texts. These texts are an allegorical novel *Válka s mloky* by Karel Čapek (1936) and two different translations of this book. The first translation was created by Marie and Robert Weatherall in the year 1937. The second version was made by Czech poet and translator Ewald Osers in the year 1985.

On the basis of the theory we established the following hypotheses. Czech verbs in *nedokonavý vid* are going to be translated mostly by the progressive form. Czech verbs in *dokonavý vid* are going to be translated mostly by the past simple tense. Czech verbs in the third form of *vid* “*neaktuální násobená*” are going to be translated mostly by the habitual aspect in English.

The following methods were used to analyse the texts. Firstly, the Czech original text was analysed. Three hundred samples of verbs in *nedokonavý vid* and three hundred samples of verbs in *dokonavý vid* were chosen from the text. The determination of *vid* of Czech verbs was done according to the method of Kopečný mentioned in chapter 2.1.1. Secondly, the corresponding verbs from both English translations were written down and analysed in terms of tenses and progressiveness. We also observed a presence of alternative means for expressing aspectual differences in English translations. The results were summarized in a statistical analysis. Verbs in the third form of *vid* were a special case. The examples of this *vid* were taken from the whole first part of the book *Válka s mloky*. However, only seven examples of this *vid* were found in this part. Therefore these examples were analysed separately and are not included in our statistical analysis. The concrete examples of this form of *vid* are stated in the appendix 3.

3.1 The translation of Czech *nedokonavý vid*

In the English language, as we stated above, the marked member of the aspectual opposition is the imperfective one, which means that only imperfectivity can be grammatically expressed. On the one hand it can be done by a progressive form of a verb and on the other hand by habitual aspect (by the phrase *used to*) (The habitual aspect is examined in a separate chapter). The following examples prove that the progressive form is used for expressing imperfective aspectual character. The number of the page from the source book is stated in the brackets:

Čapek: “*Sinhálec ještě pořád **klouzal** po balvanech, hlasitě se zajíkaje hrůzou.*” (14)

Weatherall: “*The Sinhalese **was still clambering** over the boulders gasping loudly with terror.*” (20)

Osers: “*The Sinhalese **was still climbing** over the boulders, gasping noisily with fright.*” (15)

Both versions of the English translation use the progressive form to express Czech *nedokonavý vid*. We bring other examples from the texts to show that this was used throughout the whole text.

| Čapek | Weatherall | Osers |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| nakupoval | I were buying | I'm buying |
| seděl na bobku | was squatting | was squatting |
| odřezával | was picking up | was cutting off |
| hýbalo se | were moving (round him) | was moving (near him) |
| rozkládá | was gesticulating | was waving his arms |
| brebentí | was jabbering | was jabbering away |
| pomáhal | was giving him a hand | was helping him |

Furthermore, also a few transgressive forms (*přechodníky*) were used in the original text. We noticed that only the present transgressive forms were used. These forms are formed only from verbs in *nedokonavý vid* in the Czech language. The majority of the present transgressive forms from our analysis was translated to English by nonfinite clauses with -ing participle (5.3% and 8% in total). It follows that a nonfinite clause with -ing participle is another way for expressing imperfectivity in the English language. It is illustrated at the previous example where the Czech verb *zajíkaje se* is translated by English *gasp*ing.

The statistical analysis, however, disproved our hypothesis and showed that the majority (37% and 35.7%) of the verbs in *nedokonavý vid* were translated by the past simple tense in both translations. The following example illustrates this situation:

Čapek: “...*neboť Dayak **pracoval** ještě po staru, ozbrojen jenom dlouhým nožem.*” (19)

Weatherall: “...*for the Dayak still **worked** in the old way only armed with a long knife.*” (28)

Osers: “...*for the Dayak still **operated** in the old way, armed only with a long knife.*” (20)

In one of the previous chapters we stated that the translation of the Czech *nedokonavý vid* to English is guided by a time reference. Therefore we should use a progressive form for ongoing actions taking place at the moment of speaking, and a simple form for general situations. However, the following examples from the analysis, where one author uses the simple form and the second one the progressive form in the same situation, do not confirm this.

| Čapek | Weatherall | Osers |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| vozím | I'am shipping | I carry |
| seděla na bobku | was crouching | squatted |
| říkají | say | are saying |
| křižoval | hovered | was bobbing up and down |
| ležel | lay | was lying |
| mlaskali | were smacking their lips | to smack their lips |
| jede se | sail | we're sailing |

It can be observed that each author chooses a different form in different situations. We have to, therefore, agree with the claim of Knittlová (2003) that in this case the choice of aspect is a subjective matter depending on a concrete speaker (92). This is also proved by the example where the progressive form is used for translating of a Czech verb in *dokonavý vid*:

Čapek: “...ale to už *se* Jensen a Gudmundson **opřeli** do vesel...” (19)

Osers: “But by then Jensen and Gudmundson **were pulling** on their oars...” (20)

The percentage of used forms to translate *nedokonavý vid* is shown in our statistical analysis:

Weatherall: past simple 37%, present simple 24.7%, progressive forms 16%, infinitive 8%, modals 7.7%, -ing participle 5.3%, perfect forms 1.3%

Osers: past simple 35.7%, present simple 20%, progressive forms 14.3%, modals 9.3%, -ing participle 8%, infinitive 7%, no verb 2.7%, perfect forms 2.3%, perfect progressive 0.7%

Furthermore, we examined one extra way for expressing of imperfective meaning which is a constructions with keep + adjective or participle. The following

sentences show that the phrases *keep shut* and *keep silent* are used for translating the Czech verb *mlčet* in *nedokonavý vid*.

Čapek: “*Tihle severáni dovedou přece jen **mlčet**.*” (19)

Weatherall: “*These Nordics know how **to keep** their mouths **shut** after all.*” (28)

Osers: “*These Nordics know how **to keep** silent.*” (20)

However, this method is applied rarely in a few isolated cases.

3.2 The translation of Czech dokonavý vid

In the theory above we learnt that there is no definite way how to formally express perfective aspect in English. However, there are methods like using specific adverbial particles, prefixes or some kinds of tenses for expressing of perfective meaning.

Using of the past simple tense is one of these methods as we can see in the following example.

Čapek: “*Před tou skleněnou tabulkou **se** jednoho žhnoucího dne **zastavil** pán v bílé námořnické čapce....*” (30)

Weatherall: “*One sizzling day, in front of that glass plate a gentleman **halted** in a white sailor’s cap....*” (41)

Osers: “*It was in front of the glass plate that on a scorching day a gentleman in a white sailor’s cap **stopped**....*” (28)

We can observe that both translators used verbs in the past simple tense for expressing the perfective aspectual character of the action. From the statistical analysis of both translations results that the overwhelming majority (66% and 64%) of Czech verbs in *dokonavý vid* was translated by the past simple tense. Here are some other examples from the examined texts:

| Čapek | Weatherall | Osers |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| prohlásil | explained | declared |
| vynořila se | emerged | broke (surface) |
| zamračil se | frowned | scowled |
| vydechl | sighed | breathed |
| položil | laid | placed |
| připomněl si | recalled | reminded (himself) |
| pomyslel si | thought | thought (to himself) |

Nevertheless, it cannot be said that the past simple form expresses exclusively perfective meaning. Past simple forms are largely used also for expressing of imperfective meaning as it was mentioned in chapter 3.1. The following sentences show that the past simple form in English can be used for translating the same verb either in *dokonavý vid* or in *nedokonavý vid*:

Čapek: “*Kapitán **zakýval** hlavou*” (24)

Weatherall and Osers: “*The capitan **nodded** his head*” (33, 24)

Čapek: “*Míšenec to přeložil a starosta **kýval** hlavou ...*” (12)

Weatherall and Osers: “*The half-breed translated and the mayor **nodded** his head...*” (18)

In the first Czech sentence verb *zakýval* in *dokonavý vid* is used. In the first English sentence verb *nodded* in the past simple tense is used. In the second Czech sentence verb *kýval* in *nedokonavý vid* is used, but in the second English sentence there is again the past simple form used. Thus the past simple tense is indifferent in terms of aspect. This also implies that in some cases the difference in aspectual character of an action is neglected and not expressed at all.

In the theoretical part we stated that perfective aspectual character of an action can be expressed by one type of the present perfect tense, namely “perfect of result”. The following exemplary sentences from examined texts show that our statement was right and both authors used present perfect with resultative character to express perfective meaning.

Čapek: “...*bud’ tam má náš starý holku, nebo **se** dočista **zbláznil**.*” (18)

Weatherall: “...*either our old man has got a girl there, or else **he’s gone completely dotty**.*” (26)

Osers: “...*either the old man’s got a girl there or **he’s gone clean off his rocker**.*” (19)

Other examples of the same situation from the books are listed here:

| Čapek | Weatherall | Osers |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| zakotvil | has just dropped anchor | had just dropped anchor |
| poznal jste | you have seen | you shall have seen |
| přišli jsme | we have come | we have come |

Furthermore, we examined the occurrence of other methods for expressing perfective meaning in English mentioned in the theoretical part. Some examples of using adverbial particles were found:

Čapek: “*Potom **se** udělal krátký tropický soumrak a nad ostrovem **vyplul** měsíc...*” (18)

Weatherall: “*Then a short tropical twilight faded, and the moon **swam out** over the island*” (27)

Osers: “*Then a brief tropical dusk fell and the moon **sailed out** over the island*” (19)

We observe that the Czech verb *vyplul* is translated by English verbs *swam* and *sailed* in combination with the adverbial particle *out* which emphasizes perfective meaning of the situation. Other examples follow:

| Čapek | Weatherall | Osers |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| vylovil | fished up | came up |
| zašlápl | trod down | ground |
| sedl si | sat down | sat down |
| odrazil | put off | put off |
| vystřčilo | stuck out | pushed out |
| vyňal | took out | took out |
| vymyslet | to think out | invent |
| vyndal | took out | produced |
| vyvalil se | rolled out | rolled out |

We have verified that adverbial particles *down*, *up*, *off*, *out* are used for expressing perfective meaning. It can be noticed that for Czech verbs where perfective meaning is expressed by prefix *vy-*, in English adverbial particle *out* is often used. That could imply that some kinds of English adverbial particles are a parallel to Czech prefixes with perfective meaning. The last adverbial particle stated (*out*) was the most frequent in our analysis. However, in some of the examples above we can notice that each translator decided to use a different method for expressing perfective meaning. M. and R. Weatherall used for translating of the verb *vymyslet* phrasal verb *think out*, whereas E. Osers used verb *invent* which has perfectivity in its lexical meaning. M. and R. Weatherall used adverbial particles for expressing perfective meaning in 14.7% (past simple 11%, present simple 1.3%, infinitive 1.3%, modals 1%) of cases. E. Osers

used adverbial particles for expressing perfective meaning in 15% (past simple 8.3%, modals 2.3%, present simple 2% infinitive 1.3%, perfect form 1%) of cases.

Moreover, we examined verbo-nominal constructions in the analysis of excerpts. The result of the analysis is that this method is not frequent in examined texts. One of the examples of applying these constructions is as follows:

Čapek: “*Podívat se na Devil Bay.*” (17)

Weatherall: “*To have a look at Devil Bay.*” (25)

The verbo-nominal construction *have a look* is used in this case to adequately translate perfective meaning of the Czech verb *podívat se*.

The percentage of forms used to translate *dokonavý vid* is shown in our statistical analysis. The verbs with adverbial particle are included here and classified according to the tense:

Weatherall: past simple 66%, present simple 13.3%, modals 11.4%, infinitive 5%, perfect forms 3.3%, progressive forms 1%

Osers: past simple 64%, modals 12.7%, present simple 10%, infinitive 5.3%, perfect forms 5%, progressive forms 1.7%, no verbs 1.3%

The application of means for expressing perfective meaning was discussed in this chapter. Firstly, it was observed that the past simple tense is the most used way of expressing perfective meaning of a situation. However, this tense can be used for expressing imperfective meaning as well, which implies that the past simple tense is aspectually indifferent. Secondly, it was verified that the present perfect tense with resultative meaning has also perfective aspectual character. Furthermore, from other means mentioned in chapter 2.2.2, only some adverbial particles (*down, up, off, out*) and verbo-nominal phrases (*have a look*) were applied to express perfectivity in

examined texts. The adverbial particles were used in 14.7% (Weatherall) and 15% (Osers) of all examined samples. Verbo-nominal phrases were applied in less than 1% of all cases.

3.3 The translation of the third Czech *vid*

In the theoretical part the third form of *vid* “*neaktuální násobená*” was delimited in the Czech language. It was mentioned that it can be taken into consideration in translation from Czech to English, because it expresses a parallel situation as the English habitual aspect. We stated the hypothesis that the majority of the form “*neaktuální násobená*” was going to be translated by the English habitual aspect. The problem occurred, when not enough samples of this form appeared in the original text, thus it was impossible to elaborate any relevant statistical analysis. However, some examples of the form “*neaktuální násobená*” from examined texts are given as follows.

An example of two Czech sentences with the same reference to a repeated past situation on one hand, and different lexical expressions on the other hand, is provided:

Čapek: “*Člověče drahá, nejste vy ten Vantoch, co se se mnou v Jevíčku prával, když jsme byli kluci?*” (32) X “*Často jsme se prali*” (32)

Weatherall: “*My dear man, aren't you the Vantoch who **used to fight** with me in Jevíčko, when we were boys?*” (43) X “*We **used to fight** a lot*” (43)

Osers: “*Good heavens, you must be the Vantoch who **used to fight** with me in Jevíčko when we were boys?*” (30) X “*We **used to fight** a lot*” (30)

We can see that the habitual aspect (in the form of the phrase *used to*) was applied in both English translations in both sentence. In contrast with Czech, where the past simple tense is adopted in the second sentence and the habitual meaning is expressed here by means of adverb “*často*”.

The second example of using habitual aspect for expressing the same meaning as the form “*neaktuální násobená*” is following:

Čapek: “*Tož vy jste **býval** takové slabé židáček.*” (32)

Weatherall: “*Well, you **used to be** such a weak little Jew.*” (44)

Osers: “*Of course, you were such a weak little Jew.*” (30)

Hereby we confirmed that the third form of Czech *vid* is translated by the phrase *used to* in the English language. At the same time we see that one of the translators decided to use the past simple tense instead of the phrase *used to*. In our analysis we found more examples of the situation where the habitual aspect is not applied for translating of the third form of *vid*. M. and R. Weatherall used the habitual aspect in four from seven cases, whether Osers only in two cases. This implies that the third form of Czech *vid* “*neaktuální násobená*” is not strictly translated to English by habitual aspect. As we have already said we do not have enough samples to measure statistically the number of the situations where the phrase *used to* is not applied.

5 THE CONCLUSION

This thesis occupies with the problems of translating verbal aspect/*slovesný vid* into the English language. The category of verbal aspect/*slovesný vid* is understood differently in the Czech and the English language. For that reason we analysed the means for expressing aspectual differences in English where the category of *vid* as it is known in Czech does not exist. We based our analysis on comparing of the original Czech text *Válka s mloky* with two versions of its translation into English.

We learnt in the theoretical part that the Czech aspectual categories *dokonavý* and *nedokonavý vid* do not correspond with the English categories of perfective and imperfective aspect. However, this inconsistency is balanced by various means for expressing aspectual differences as for example tenses, prefixes, adverbial particles and syntactic constructions.

The analysis of the texts brought the following results. The most frequent way to translate *nedokonavý vid* was the simple form (Weatherall: past simple 37%, present simple 24.7%; Osers: past simple 35.7%, present simple 20%) of an English verb and not the progressive one as stated our hypothesis. The reason can be that the progressive form is only one of the subcategories of imperfective aspect in the English language and imperfectivity does not have to be expressed at all. The most frequent way to translate *dokonavý vid* was the past simple form of a verb (Weatherall: 66%; Osers: 64%), which confirmed our hypothesis. We can notice that the percentage is quite similar for both authors. For the confirmation of the third hypothesis (Czech verbs in the third form of *vid* “*neaktuální násobená*” are going to be translated mostly by the English habitual aspect), we did not have enough examples in the original text to create a statistical analysis. The reason might be that this form of *vid* is rarely used in Czech texts, because it has a specific and limited range of situations where it can be applied.

We wrongly supposed that enough samples of this *vid* would appear in our examined text. We can only state that in the case of translating the third form of Czech *vid* the habitual aspect (*used to*) was applied only in a few cases. In the rest of the cases, habituality was not expressed at all. The third form of Czech *vid* is not strictly translated by the English habitual aspect.

Other findings that emerged from our analysis as follows. By the comparison of the two different translations we confirmed that the use of the progressive form is influenced by the personal style of an author and his subjective conception of viewing a situation as progressive or nonprogressive. Each author used a different form (one progressive and the other simple form) of a verb for translating the same sentence into English. Adverbial particles are another thing we observed in our analysis. Adverbial particles for translating verbs in *dokonavý vid* were applied in 14.7% (Weatherall) and 15% (Osers) of all the examined items. We found a certain parallel between Czech prefixes with perfective meaning and some kinds of English adverbial particles. For example we found several cases where the translator used a verb with the adverbial particle *out* for translating of a Czech verb with prefix *vy-*. However, we don't have enough examples to measure statistically to what extent the Czech "perfective" prefixes correspond with English adverbial particles.

Generally, this thesis showed that both *dokonavý* and *nedokonavý vid* were mostly translated by the past simple tense. Furthermore, this thesis also showed that the translation of *vid* to the English language is considerably influenced by the translator's subjective conception of a concrete situation. The lack of examples of an examined phenomenon was the main problem of this thesis. For a further exploration it would be appropriate to work with a wider range of items, so that it would be possible to build a serious statistical analysis of the examined phenomena. The second

problem could be that the results can be influenced by the choice of the examined text. Our text was a fictional novel narrated mainly in the past tense. It would be reasonable to extend the range of samples to different styles of language for the further research.

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APPENDICES

1. Verbs in the form of *dokonavý vid*
2. Verbs in the form of *nedokonavý vid*
3. The third form of *vid* “*neaktuální násobená*”

1. Verbs in the form of *dokonavý vid*

Čapek

Weatherall

Osers

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| zakotvil | has just dropped anchor | had just dropped anchor |
| řekl by (vám) | would tell you | would tell you |
| zeptali byste se | would inquire | might inquire |
| spustil (kotvy) | had dropped (the anchor) | had dropped (his anchor) |
| zafuněl by | would snort | would snort |
| kdybyste nechali | let | left |
| dozvědět se (víc) | might discover more | would learn (a lot more) |
| ulevit | to get something off (his chest) | to let off steam |
| nechte ho | let him be | let him be |
| najde si | will work itself off | will simmer down |
| podívejte se | look here | — |
| vyhrkne | bursts out | would burst out |
| vzpomenou si | will get it into their heads | (suddenly) say to you |
| ohlídněte se | keep your eyes open | look out (for pearls) |
| odplivne si | expectorates | expectorated |
| zaváhá | hasitates (a little) | hasitated (for a moment) |
| dát se (do řeči) | to begin a discussion | to embark on a discourse |
| mávne (rukou) | waves (his hand) | waved (his hand) |
| zakázali | are not allowed | have put a ban |
| zajedťe | sail to (islands) | just sail to (islands) |
| najdou se | will find (banks) | may find (banks) |
| zatroubí | blows (into a handkerchief) | blew his nose (into a h.) |
| najde | can still find | can find (something) |
| vydělat | can make money out of | to make money out of |
| pošlou | let them send (some greenhorn) | don't send out (greenhorn) |
| objeví | will find (things) | would discover (things) |
| objevit | might still come across (thing) | might still find (something) |
| přijdou | come (here) | come down (here) |
| sežrat | can be devoured | can guzzle up |
| zastavily | to stop | to heave to |
| prominout | I beg your pardon | if you'll pardon me |
| podaří | succeeds | managed to master it |
| stvořil | created (them) | made (them) |
| najdu | I find (a stretch) | I come across (a stretch) |
| vylovil | fished up | came up |
| objevil | to discover (a continent) | discover (some continent) |
| nevzedme se | won't give | won't rise |
| nepohneš | won't move (it) | won't change (it) |
| vystoupil | to get across | to step (ashore) |
| řekl | said | said |
| mám nalít | will you have another one | top you up |
| pokrčil (rameny) | shrugged (his shoulders) | shrugged |
| vystrčilo | stuck out | pushed out |
| nevleze | would ever crawl into | would ever go into |
| otřásl se | shivered (with terror) | shivered (with horror) |
| vyruší | upsets those devils | to disturb (the devils) |
| potřásl (hlavou) | shook (his head) | shook (his head) |
| zeptejte se | ask | ask |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| prohlásil | explained | declared |
| uhodil | hitting (the table) | bringing palm down (on table) |
| zrudl | turned crimson | turned florid |
| rozkřikl se | bawled | he shouted |
| podíváme se | will see about (that) | will see about (that) |
| zavolej | fetch me | get me (the mayor) |
| oslovil | addressing (him) | addressed (him) |
| přeložil | translated | translated |
| obrátil se (k auditoriu) | turned (to the auditory) | turned (to his audience) |
| řekni | tell (them) | tell (them) |
| obrátil se | turned (to the captain) | turned (to the captain) |
| počal | began | was beginning |
| řekni | tell (them) | tell (them) |
| vyrazím | I shall knock (all their teeth) out | I'll knock (all their teeth) in |
| utrám | I shall slit (their ears) | I'll tear (their ears) off |
| pověším | I shall hang (them) | I'll hang (them) |
| spálím | I shall burn (their kampong) | I'll burn (kampong) down |
| přeložil | translated (it) | translated (faithfully) |
| obrátil se | turned (to the captain) | turned (to the captain) |
| řekni (mu) | tell (him) | tell (him) |
| zařval | he roared | he roared |
| upustit | to refrain | to drop |
| zaplatí-li | deposits (a fee) | paid (a fine) |
| zaváhal | he hesitated | he hesitated |
| nabídněte | offer (them five) | offer (them five) |
| slevil | made a reduction | he came down |
| setrvali | stood firm | insisted |
| dejte (jim to) | let them have it | give (it to them) |
| domlouval | pleaded | pleaded |
| odrazil | put off (from the dutch ship) | put off (from the dutch ship) |
| zamířil | headed (straight for devil bay) | made straight (for devil bay) |
| skočil | slipped into (the water) | jumped in |
| vynořila se | emerged | broke (surface) |
| zamračil se | frowned | scowled |
| řekl | demanded (sharply) | said (sharply) |
| stalo se | has happened | what's up |
| vypravil ze sebe | managed to groan | managed to utter |
| klesl | sank down (on the shore) | sinking down (on the shore) |
| zaúpěl | moaned | moaned |
| ukáž | let me see | let's see |
| otevřel ji | opened it (with the knife) | opened it (with a knife) |
| nenašel | was all you found | this is all you found |
| vyňal | took (three more shells) out | took out |
| naježily se (úděsem) | stood up on end (with horror) | bristled (in horror) |
| otevřel | opened (the shells) | opened (the shells) |
| řekl | faltered | said |
| skočit | dive down (there again) | to go down (there) |
| zavrtěl (hlavou) | shook his head | shook his head |
| pocítil | felt (a strong itch) | felt (a strong itch) |
| shledal | found | found |
| vydechl | gasped out | breathed |
| ukázal | he held his hand | indicated |
| roztrásl se | began to shudder | began to tremble |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ohlédl se | looked round (for sinhalese) | looked round (for singhales) |
| pokynul | nodded (to him silently) | made a signal (to him) |
| skočil | dived (into the water) | jumped (into the water) |
| vynořil se | he emerged | he emerged |
| podíval se | peered | looked (more closely) |
| zachytil | caught (hold of one hand) | to snatch (hold of one hand) |
| položil | let him lie | he leid him down |
| nadzvedl | lifted up (one of his eyelids) | lifted (his eyelid) |
| zarejdoval | drew (nearer to the shore) | closed in (towards the shore) |
| řekl | said | said |
| sebrat | pick up | pick up |
| podívejte se | look | look |
| přišel (k sobě) | came round | did come round |
| poslal | sent (away) | sent (the man away) |
| sedl si | sat down | sat down |
| řekl | said | said |
| vyrazily | broke out (all over his body) | erupted (all over his body) |
| zachrchlal | cleared his throat | cleared his throat |
| zpolíčkoval | slapped (both his cheeks) | slapped (both his cheeks) |
| přivedl k sobě | to bring him round | to bring him round |
| vydechl | sighed | breathed |
| vypluly | swam out (again) | (again) swam out |
| pocítil | felt (something) | had felt (something) |
| ohlédl se | turned round | had turned round |
| upustil | dropped (the knife) | had dropped |
| vyplout | to come to the top | to swim (to the surface) |
| narazil | struck at (some of the devils) | had collided (with devils) |
| řekl si | said to himself | thought to himself |
| pošlu | shall send him | would send (him home) |
| vysypal | shook out (two pearls) | tipped out (two pearls) |
| zafrkal | gasped | snorted |
| vyňal | took out (his whisky) | took (whisky) |
| řekl | said | said |
| promluvit | to say (anything) | to say (anything) |
| vstal | rose | got to his feet |
| povyťáhl | hitched (his trousers) up | yanked up (his trousers) |
| zabodl | stuck (his finger) into (the air) | stabbed (his finger into the air) |
| podíval bych se | should like to come across | would be surprised |
| řekl | said | said |
| ukázal | panted | pointed |
| zachrochtal | grunted | growled |
| podívat se | to have a look (at devil bay) | to have a look (at devil bay) |
| počalo se | began | marked the start |
| nepromluvil | did't utter a word | he spoke not a single word |
| dal se odvézt | had himself taken (to the boat) | had himself rowed out |
| zamkl se | locked himself (in his cabin) | locked himself (in the cabin) |
| dostal (hlášení) | was informed | was informed |
| zafuněl | snorted | snorted (merely) |
| vrátil se (až s úsvitem) | never came back (till dawn) | did not return (until dawn) |
| zeptal se | inquired | inquired |
| otočil se | spun round | spun round |
| utrhl se | snapped | snapped |
| vyvalil se | rolled out | rolled out |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| zbláznil se | has gone (completely) dotty | has gone clean off his rocker |
| zamračil se | frowned | scowled |
| vzal | took (with him) | took |
| zůstali | waited (with the boat) | pulled in |
| řekl | said | said |
| napočítal | counted (two, three, six fins) | counted (two, three, six fins) |
| ponořila se | dipped under | would submerge |
| švihl | swished (through the water) | would flap (above the surface) |
| zavířilo | was a violent commotion | would be churned up |
| začal | began | began |
| udělal (se soumrak) | (twilight) faded | fell |
| vyplul | swam out | sailed out (over the island) |
| zabral vesly | pulled at (the oars) | gripped (his oars) |
| přiblížil se | drew (the boat) near | brought to within a furlong |
| zavesloval | rowed (a bit further) | pulled on his oars |
| zastavil | stopped | stopped half a furlong |
| vyklouzlo | slipped from (hand) | slipped from (hand) |
| plesklo | splashed (into the water) | slapped (into the water) |
| zvedl (hlavu) | looked up | raised (his head) |
| vstal | raised himself | stood up |
| zašumělo | there was a hissing | there was a rustling |
| zavířilo | there was a swirling | there was a swirling |
| zapleskalo | there was a splashing | there was a splashing |
| opřeli se | had pulled on (their oars) | were pulling on (their oars) |
| vrátili se | they got back (to the ship) | they got back (to the ship) |
| neřekli | didn't say a word | did not say a word |
| vrátil se | returned | returned (towards dawn) |
| neřekl | didn't utter a word | did not speak a word |
| setkaly se | blue eyes met (a cold) | met (in a cold stare) |
| řekl | said | said |
| dostanete | will get (your book) | will get (your papers) |
| odplula | sailed (for padang) | sailed (for padang) |
| poslal | sent (a packet) | sant (a package) |
| našel | till he found (the man) | until he found |
| odstěhoval se | moved (to the island) | set out (for the island) |
| vyjde | emerged | would emerge |
| dejte | print | — |
| vzdychne | sighed | heaved a deep sigh |
| zvedne (oči) | raised (their eyes) | raised (their eyes) |
| vymyslet | to think out | invent |
| zívne | yawned | yawned |
| to se řekne | it's easy to say | easily said |
| vzít | to get it | do we get it |
| rozhostilo se (ticho) | spread (through) | fell upon (the office) |
| ozval se | faltered | spoke up |
| narodil se | was born | was born |
| podíval se | looked at | looked at |
| řekl | said | said |
| slezl (se stolu) | slipped down | slipped off (the desk) |
| řekl | said | said |
| zamířili | made a beeline | made straight (for him) |
| zvedl (oči) | raised (his eyes) | raised his eyes |
| povstal | raised (himself) | lifted (himself) |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| sedněte si | sit down | sit down |
| přisedli | (were willing) to sit down | sat down |
| položili | put out (their writing-pads) | placed (their notepads) |
| řekl | said | said |
| přineste (pivo) | fetch (some beer) | fetch (some beer) |
| řekl | inquired | said |
| opřel se | leaning (with his elbows) | panting (his elbows on table) |
| dostal jste se | did you get (to the sea) | did you manage to go to sea |
| řekl (důtklivě) | said (emphatically) | said |
| potlačil ji | suppressed it | suppressed (his curiosity) |
| poznal jste | you have seen (a good deal) | you shall have seen |
| upřel (oči) | fixed (on them his eyes) | fixed (his eyes) |
| přišel | has arrived | - |
| schovejte | put away | - |
| přišli jsme | we have come | we have come (to seek) |
| zažil | experiences he has had | has experienced |
| zakýval (hlavou) | nodded (his head) | nodded (his head) |
| řekl (důstojně) | said (with dignity) | said (with dignity) |
| podívali se | looked at (each other) | looked at (each other) |
| dostanete | you will get (some money) | you will get (some money) |
| řekl (štědře) | said (generously) | said (generously) |
| zavrtěl (hlavou) | shook (his head) | shook (his head) |
| vylovil (z kapsy) | fished out (from pocket) | fished out (from his pocket) |
| naklonil se | bent (towards) | leaned across (to gentlemen) |
| počkejte | wait (a bit) | wait (a minute) |
| řekl | said | said |
| vytáhl | pulled out (something) | pulled (something) out |
| položil | laid (it) | placed (it on table) |
| vydechl | gasped | gasped |
| vzdychl | sighed | sighed |
| přerušil | interrupted | interrupted (him) |
| zeptej se | ask about (captain) | ask about (captain) |
| koupíš | would buy | would buy (that boat) |
| vyhrkl | groaned | groaned |
| řekl | said | said |
| prožil jste | have you ever experienced | ever been shipwrecked |
| poznal jste | did you get to know | meet any natives |
| potřásl (hlavou) | shook (his head) | shook (his head) |
| prodáte | you will sell | can sell it |
| řeknu | I will tell you | let me tell you |
| vysmrkal se | he blew (his nose) | he blew (his nose) |
| zasmušil se | grew gloomy | grew gloomy |
| vzpomněl si | remembered | remembered (something) |
| zahlaholil | broke out | exclaimed (happily) |
| podívil se | pondered | mused |
| zvážněl | grew serious | turned serious |
| popluje | I shall set a course | I will set course |
| neujel | we shall miss | we will miss (the train) |
| doprovodím | I will see you (into harbour) | I will see you down to harbour |
| našel bych | I could look for (a job) | I could find (you jobs) |
| vypadla mu | fell out | dropped (into the sand) |
| nenášel | nobody ever found | nobody ever found |
| zastavil se | halted | stopped |

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| zatláhl | pressed (the button) | tugged (the bell-pull) |
| objevil se | appeared | appeared |
| změřil (očima) | weighed up (with his eyes) | sized up |
| řekl (rezervovaně) | enquired (with reserve) | inquired (with reserve) |
| ptal se | demanded | asked (icily) |
| vzpomněl si | remembered | remembered |
| podal | handed (a visiting card) | handed (a visiting card) |
| naklonil | inclined (his head) | inclined (his head) |
| rozhodl se | shall I tell him | should he tell him |
| řekl | said | said |
| ohlásím | I will take (you to mr. bondy) | I will announce you |
| zadýchlo (to) | (the air) struck | felt a breath engulfing him |
| přived'te | show him in | show him in |
| posad'te se | sit down | sit down |
| vzal jste se (tu) | did you manage to get here | have you sprung from |
| usadil se | sat down | sat down |
| položil | put (his cap on the floor) | put (his cap on the floor) |
| zatroutil | blew (into his handkerchief) | blew (into his handkerchief) |
| připomněl si | recalled | reminded (himself) |
| ožil | revived | came to life |
| dostal (žízeň) | I got (a thirst) | I have worked up a huge thirst |
| vyndal | took out (a handkerchief) | produced (the handkerchief) |
| zazvonil | rang (the bell) | rang (a bell) |
| nechte to | don't you worry | leave it |
| zapalte si | have a cigar | don't you take a cigar |
| čichl | smelt it | smelled it |
| rozmačkal | squashed | squashed (his cigar) |
| nasypal si | pressed (into his pipe) | crammed (into his pipe) |
| zjevil se | appeared | (suddenly) appeared |
| přineste | bring | bring |
| zvedl (obočí) | lifted (his eyebrows) | raised his eyebrows |
| broukl | growled | growled |
| zašlápl | trod down (a match) | ground a match |
| obrátil | turned up (his eyes) | turned (eyes to the ceiling) |
| pomyslel si | thought | thought (to himself) |
| neunesl | didn't bear you away | have you ever been carried off |
| není napsáno | posted up | hasn't got a notice |
| je uskláděno | was stowed away | had been stowed |
| mohl oslovit | might have spoken to him | have addressed him |
| byl obnoven | was reestablished | was restored |

2. Verbs in the form of *nedokonavý vid*

Čapek

Weatherall

Osers

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nadával by (chvíli) | would curse (for a while) | would curse (for a while) |
| Žije | lives | being living (there) |
| Nepočítáme-li | not counting | disregarding |
| Bručel by | would mutter | would mutter |
| Neplula by | wouldn't come here | would not have sailed (here) |
| Mám rozkazy | have orders | have got my orders |
| Hleďte si svého | mind your own business | will you mind your bussiness |
| Nadával by | would curse | would curse |
| Sluší se | is in keeping with captain | would expect (from a captain) |
| Bručel si | (let) growl | to grumble |
| Proklínal | (let) curse away | to curse (to himself) |
| Není vidět | doesn't his manner show | can't you see |
| Potřebuje si | wants | needs |
| Jsou blázni | are like mad | go nuts over |
| Ukládat | to put money into | put your money into |
| Pořád chcete | always wanting | are always wanting |
| Tomu se říká | that's called | is called (a crisis) |
| Nemá-li | wondering if he oughtn't | – |
| Brumlá | mumbles | grumbled |
| Mají vybrakované | cleared up the whole | cleared them clean out |
| Lovit | to fish for them | – |
| Představují si | imagine | imagine |
| Jsou moulové | mugs they are | – |
| Nechtějí | don't ask us | would have made (me) |
| bych se díval do | to look into | to peer up |
| Nesmrkají-li | are not snivelling | snot up (pearls) |
| Znám | know | know |
| Myslí si | thinks | thinks |
| Jezdím | have been around | have been sailing (for years) |
| Chtějí | want me | want me |
| Dusí se | chokes with statement | almost chocked under |
| Budou mrkat | will make them blink their eyes | to make their eyes pop |
| Žádat | to ask | to expect |
| Zná | knows the place | – |
| Čenichali | to sniff and nose out | to sniff around |
| Dá se kupovat | can be bought | to buy |
| Prodávat | can be sold | to sell |
| Budou u toho stát | would be trying to get sth. out of it | standing over it |
| Mávat | to signal with | waving |
| Znám | know | know |
| Přemáhá | tries to master | struggled with |
| Vidíte | do you see (those sluggards) | see |
| Netrestej | may (God) not punish me | may (God) forgive me |
| Dělal | he did it | he should have done |
| Nevím | I don't know | beats me |
| Vozím | I'm shipping with me now | I carry now |
| Pouštím | let them loose into water | drop into the water |
| Hledalo | to look for shells | to rout out shells |

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Potápí se | can dive | can dive |
| Nakupoval | I were buying | I'm buying |
| Hledat | look for places | searching for grounds |
| Budou chtít | will want me | will expect me |
| Je veliké | is big | is vast |
| Nemá hranic | has no limits | is boundless |
| Plivej | spit into it | spit into it |
| Spilej | curse your fate | rant at your fate |
| Jsmě u toho | have reached | have reached (the point) |
| Vzdychaje | sighing | – |
| Klna | cursing | – |
| Slézá | climbs down into a boat | climbs down into a boat |
| Jednal | to have a parley | to discuss a few matters |
| Nerostou | aren't any shells growing here | are no pearl-oysters here |
| Děl | said | said |
| Žerou | eat even jelly-fish | will even eat (jellyfish) |
| Smrdí rybinou | stink like fish | stink of fish |
| Ptal se na ženské | were asking about the women | were asking about the woman |
| Ptal se kapitán | inquired | inquired |
| Nelezou | don't crawl into the water | don't get into (the water) |
| Vrtěl | shook his head | shook his head |
| Nesmí | nobody must go there | no one's allowed there |
| Mumlal | mumbled | muttered |
| Neradi by viděli | wouldn't like | wouldn't like to see |
| Lezl | to stick his nose in there | going there |
| Namítal | objected | countered |
| Říkají | call it | call them |
| Mají město | have their town | are said to have their town |
| Vypadá | does it look like | does (this sea devil) look like |
| Jednou viděl | saw once | saw once |
| Vracel jsem se | was coming back | was (in my boat) coming back |
| Je podobné | does it look like | did it look like |
| Mrkalo | blinked at me | blinked at me |
| Sahají | come up | came up (right over its eyes) |
| Otáčel | toyed with the glass | twisted (his glass) |
| Nevesloval bych | shouldn't have rowed | wouldn't have rowed out |
| Nemají rádi | don't like it | don't like (people) |
| Museli by vypadat | would look like | would look like |
| Koktal | stammered | stammered |
| Chodil jsem do školy | went to school | went to school |
| Umím | still know | can still recite |
| Nemůže žít | can't live | can't live (in water) |
| Bojí se | have been scared of it | have been afraid of it |
| Souhlasil | consented | agreed |
| Hledat | has any business | has any business |
| Myslíš si | think | think |
| Budu se bát | shall be frightened | I'm scared |
| Vstáváje | rising | rising |
| Mařit čas | I am not going to waste my time | I'm not wasting (my time) |
| Pamatuj si | remember | remember (one thing) |
| Nebylo nutno hledat | was no trouble to find | was not too difficult to find |
| Seděl na bobku | was squatting | was squatting |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Žvýkal | chewing | chewing (sugar cane) |
| Seděla na bobku | was crouching together | squatted |
| Čekajíc | expecting | – |
| Bude filmována | to be filmed | being filmed |
| Poslyš | listen | listen (to me) |
| Neuměl | didn't know | did not understand a word |
| Musel tlumočit | had to translate | had to be interpreted |
| Považoval | felt | regarded as more sutable |
| Potřeboval bych | shell need | I need a few fellows |
| Kýval hlavou | nodded his head | nodded his head |
| Rozumí | understood | understood |
| Říká | says | says |
| Tlumočil | interpreted | interpreted |
| Bude chtít | would like (to go) | wishes |
| Půjdeme lovit | we are going fishing | we will go shell-fishing |
| Následovalo | followed | followed discussion |
| Říkají | they say | they are saying |
| Krčil | shrugged (his shoulders) | shrugged his shoulders |
| Nabíhat do fialova | to turn purple | to turn puce |
| Nepůjdou | they don't go | they won't come |
| Rozumíš | do you understand | do you understand |
| Následovala | ensued | took place |
| Říkají | they say | they're saying |
| Stěžovat si | to complain (to the police) | will complain |
| Vyhrožoval | threatened (them) | has threatened (them) |
| Mluvil | he kept on talking | spoke (for eleven minutes) |
| Přeložil | translated | translated |
| Stačila | would permit | permitted |
| Tlumočil | he interpreted (to the captain) | he interpreted (to the captain) |
| Říkají | they say | they're saying |
| Byli ochotni | would be willing | might be willing |
| Rozpadat se | to break (into blotches) | to break up (into blotches) |
| Nabízel | he threatened | he offered |
| Šli (ze dvou set) | went down (from two hundred) | came down (from 200) |
| Věděl | knew | realised |
| Nastával | was just at the turn | was turning |
| Stál | was standing (on the shore) | was standing |
| Křižoval | hovered | was bobbing up and down |
| Dával pozor | to look out for sharks | to keep a look-out (for sharks) |
| Čekali | were waiting | were waiting |
| Kázal | commanded | ordered |
| Brodil se | waded (a few steps) | waded (a few steps) |
| Díval se | glanced (at his watch) | glanced (at his watch) |
| Drápal se | scrambled up (on the boulders) | scrambled up (on the rocks) |
| Klouzal | was still clambering over | was still climbing over |
| Zajíkaje se | gasping (loudly) | gasping (noisily) |
| Křičel | shouted | yelled |
| Vydechuje | gasping out (raucously) | letting his breath out in gasp |
| Zarýval si | dug (his fists into his eyes) | dug (his fists into his eyes) |
| Kázal | commanded | ordered |
| Hlídalí | keep guard over them | are guarding (them) |
| Dívali se | watched me | were looking at me |
| Odřezával | I was cutting them off | I cut them loose |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Díval se | looked (alternately) at | studied in turn the pearl |
| Mluví tiše | was talking (in a low voice) | was talking (quietly) |
| Neboj se | don't get frightened | don't be afraid |
| Vypadají | do they look like | do (those devils) look like |
| Stáli (kolem mne) | they stood (round me) | stood all around me |
| Dívali se | watched | watched |
| Dělám | I was doing (there) | I was doing (there) |
| Přemýšlel | thought it over | reflected |
| Mrkají | do they blink (with eyelids) | do they blink their lids |
| Chraptěl | cried hoarsely | croaked |
| Nevím | I don't know | I don't know |
| Stál | he was standing | he was standing |
| Drápaje se | scrambling up | slithered up (the rocks) |
| Křikl | shouted | shouted |
| Skákal | started off (over the rocks) | was leaping over the boulders |
| Nevěřil by | would never believe | you'd never credit |
| Tahal | dragged out (of the water) | dragged out (of the water) |
| Utíral si | wiped (the sweat away) | mopped (his sweat) |
| Ležel | lay (quite motionless) | was lying (motionless) |
| Bylo vidět | was visible | was visible |
| Volal | shouted | shouted |
| Budete lovit | keep on fishing | will you carry on fishing |
| Pojed'te | come (here) | pull in (here) |
| Upozorňoval | observed | pointed out |
| Vraceli se | were returning (to the boat) | were returning (to the ship) |
| Ukazoval | pointed | pointed out |
| Šťouchaje | poking | poking (his oar) |
| Seděl | sat (with his knees under his chin) | he sat (with knees drawn up) |
| Třásl se | trembling (all over his body) | was shaking all over |
| Viděl | did you see | did you see |
| Šeptal | whispered | whispered |
| Chvěl se | to quiver | to tremble |
| Vypadají | do they look like | do they look like |
| Ukazovat | to appear | to appear |
| Pokračoval | went on | continued |
| Plovou | swim like you | swim (in the water) |
| Kývají | sway their bodies | sway their bodies all the time |
| Neříkali nic | didn't say anything | didn't say anything |
| Mlaskali | were smacking their lips | (seemed) to smack their lips |
| Odřezával | was picking up (the shells) | was cutting off (some shells) |
| Dívali se | were watching | watching |
| Dělá | was doing (there) | was doing (there) |
| Snažil se | tried | had tried |
| Pluli | were swimming (above him) | were swimming (above him) |
| Díval se (zamyšleně) | gazed (thoughtfully) | gazed (thoughtfully) |
| Bručel | grumbling | growling |
| Funě | snorting | snorting |
| Šel | went (into his cabin) | went (back to his cabin) |
| Seděl | sat (on the verandah) | sat (on the verandah) |
| Držel | held (the thick glass) | – |
| Pil | drank | drank |
| Odplivoval | spat | spat |
| Vejřil zpod obočí | peered from underneath | peered from beneath |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Zobaly | were pecking | were pecking |
| Chránil se | didn't dare | was careful |
| Naléval | filled up (the glass) | filled (the glass) |
| Podlévaly (krví) | became bloodshot | became bloodshot |
| Ptal se | inquired (politely) | inquired (courteously) |
| Pomáhal | helped (him on board) | helped (him on board) |
| Jede se | sail | we're sailing (today) |
| Píchl by | had been struck (on his backside) | had had a needle stuck |
| Hled' si | mind (your own business) | mind (your own business) |
| Ležela | lay (for a whole day) | (all day long) rode at anchor |
| Nedělala | did nothing | doing nothing |
| Kázal | commanded | commanded |
| Díval se | peered (after him) | followed him with his eyes |
| Kokřhal | crowed | said |
| Vesloval | rowed (towards Devil Bay) | rowed (in the direction) |
| Čekali | watched for | awaited developments |
| Přecházel | was walking up and down | was packing up and down |
| Zdalo se | it seemed | he seemed |
| Čeká | was waiting (for somebody) | to be waiting (for somebody) |
| Volal něco | shouted (something) | would call out (something) |
| Koukej | look | look |
| Ukazoval | pointing out (to the sea) | pointing (to the sea) |
| Táhly se | moved towards Devil Bay | making (for Devil Bay) |
| Bručel | mumbled | muttered |
| Poskakovat | to jump about(madly) | to hop about (furiously) |
| Chrlil | poured out (curses) | to hurl (curses) |
| Seděl | was now sitting (on a rock) | was now sitting on a boulder |
| Dělal | was making | going (ts, ts, ts) |
| Hýbalo se | were moving (round him) | was moving (near him) |
| Vypadá | look like (seals) | looks like (seals) |
| Myslel si | thought | thought |
| Lezou | crawl (like that) | crawl (differently) |
| Vynořovalo se | emerged (from the water) | was emerged (from the water) |
| Ťapalo | waded (along the shore) | waddled (along the beach) |
| Povídá | was saying (something) | was saying (something) |
| Rozuměl | could understand | (only) knew |
| Rozkládá | was gesticulating | was waving his arms |
| Házel | was throwing (something) | were throwing (something) |
| Ujišťoval se | assured himself | reassured himself |
| Brebentí | was jabbering (Chinese) | was jabbering away |
| Šel | run (towards the water) | took (paces towards water) |
| Blýskat | to lighten | were flashes |
| Práskat | to crackle | were cracks |
| Pálil | was firing (his Browning) | was firing (his Browning) |
| Skákalo | were dashing (into the water) | diving (into the water) |
| Hnali | rushed (their boat) | whipping (their dinghy) round |
| Mlčet | to keep their mouths shut | to keep silent |
| Pomáhal | was giving him a hand | was helping him |
| Jedeme | we are sailing (to-day) | we sail (today) |
| Potloukal se po | he knocked about (Padang) | he knocked about (Padang) |
| Hledal | he was looking for | he had been looking for |
| Najímali | hired (occasionally) | would (occasionally) hire |
| Pracoval | still worked (in the old way) | still operated (in the old way) |

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Říkalo se | he was called (Shark) | everyone called (him Shark) |
| Váhal | hasitated | hasitated |
| Možete věřit | you can believe me | you may believe me |
| Říká se | you call them | do you call them |
| Jsou vzácný | are so rare | are so rare |
| Žijí | lizards live | live |
| Musijou | they must go back | they've got to go back |
| Ťapkají | they tiptoe | they's strutting |
| Nemají | they haven't any scales | they've got no (flakes) |
| Jsou holy | they are naked | they're naked |
| Dodával | added the captain | the captain added |
| Namáhal se | tried to get | the captain struggled |
| Upíral | he fixed his eyes | fixed his eyes |
| Zdály se | seemed | thought |
| Žadonit | to clamour | they were begging |
| Pohlížeje | he regarded | he watched |
| Supěl | the captain snorted | the captain snorted |
| Řezali | Sinhalese were cutting | Singhales were cutting off |
| Koukali | lizards were looking | lizards were watching |
| Mysleli si | divers thought | Singhales thought |
| Víš | you know | you know |
| Nechceme | Czechs don't want | Czechs don't want |
| Věřit | to believe | to believe |
| Sedím | I was sitting there | I sat there |
| Kroutil | wiggled | twisted |
| Říkám | I said | I said |
| Krouť se | wiggled | squirming |
| Stydí se | it's shy | being bashful |
| Vystrkovali | they were sticking | poking |
| Nebáli se | they weren't frightened | he shouldn't be afraid of me |
| Chceš | you want | you want |
| Netroufal si | he was too scared | he was still afraid |
| Natahuju | I stretched out | I put out my hand |
| Řezou | cutting the shells | cutting off those shells |
| Budou otvírat | the divers were going to open | Singhalese would open them |
| Svlíkal se | I used to strip myslef naked | I stripped naked |
| Lezli | they crawled up | were crawling up |
| Sedělo | lizards sitting | lizards were sitting (around) |
| Zacházet | use | can handle |
| Kýval | Captain shook his head | Captain nodded his head |
| Vracel se | I was going back | I returned |

3. The third form of *vid* “*neaktuální násobená*”

- Čapek:** “**Býval** jste často v Kolombu?” (26)
Weatherall: “Have you often been to Colombo?” (36)
Osers: “Have you often been to Colombo?” (25)
- Čapek:** “Člověče drahá, nejste vy ten Vantoch, co se se mnou v Jevíčku **prával**, když jsme byli kluci?” (32) X “Často jsme se prali.” (32)
Weatherall: “My dear man, aren’t you the Vantoch who **used to fight** with me in Jevíčko, when we were boys?” (43) X “We **used to fight** a lot.” (43)
Osers: “Good heavens, you must be the Vantoch who **used to fight** with me in Jevíčko when we were boys?” (30) X “We **used to fight** a lot.” (30)
- Čapek:** “Ale vy jste **býval** štíhlejší než já...” (32)
Weatherall: “But you were stronger than I was...” (43)
Osers: “But you were always stronger than me...” (30)
- Čapek:** “Tož vy jste **býval** takové slabé židáček...” (32)
Weatherall: “Well, you **used to be** such a weak little Jew...” (44)
Osers: “Of course, you were such a weak little Jew...” (30)
- Čapek:** “A moc jste **dostával** na prdel.” (32)
Weatherall: “And you **used to get** a lot on the backside.” (44)
Osers: “And you got a lot of kicks up your arse.” (30)
- Čapek:** “**Dostával**, to je pravda.” (32)
Weatherall: “I did, that’s sure.” (44)
Osers: “Too right.” (30)